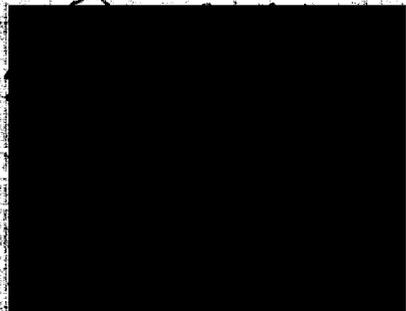


THE TEXAS  
HER NEWS

51.105  
41.251



FOIAb3b

## McCone Strengthened

In the wake of the Cuban invasion in April, there were strong rumors and demands that the Central Intelligence Agency be shaken up.

The CIA stood in peril of being weakened in its function.

That hasn't happened, a directive from President Kennedy to the new CIA chief, John A. McCone, makes clear.

A White House memorandum to McCone dated Jan. 16 was released as McCone appeared before the Senate Armed Services Committee for a public hearing on his nomination to head the CIA.

Kennedy's memo gave McCone clear-cut authority over all foreign intelligence.

It specified Kennedy wanted McCone to undertake "the coordination and effective guidance of the total United States foreign intelligence effort."

"As the government's principal intelligence officer, you will assure the proper coordination, correlation and evaluation of intelligence from all sources," the President added.

He ordered a continuing review of intelligence activities of all U.S. agencies to assure efficiency and avoid duplication.

There must, of course, be overall direction and responsibility vested in one top spot. The CIA, whatever its lapses in the past, is the logical place.

CPYRGT

### McCONE'S INTEREST

Today the Senate is scheduled to vote on the appointment by President Kennedy of John McCone as director of the Central Intelligence Agency. It is very possible that next to the Presidency, this is the most important and powerful position in Washington. The man who heads the CIA is in charge of an agency which operates all over the world, which is not accountable to the Congress for its expenditures or its activities, which has, in addition, unlimited funds at its disposal and is thus so unhampered by budget or supervisory considerations that it could create situations beyond the control of policy-makers.

This is not to say that the CIA is not responsible to the Chief Executive. It is, but some idea of problems related to the CIA can be gained by realizing that in an effort to establish a greater form of responsibility, Mr. Kennedy has had in effect to give the CIA even stronger powers than it previously possessed. From now on the CIA will coordinate all the intelligence data of the federal government and will channel intelligence reports to the President. The failure of the CIA to gather correct information about Cuba, which led to the invasion there of last April, has ironically resulted in a new and strengthened CIA.

At least in the intelligence-gathering end of foreign policy, Mr. Kennedy's recent order also, it is true, declared that the CIA will no longer command operations, as it did in the past in such far-flung places as Egypt, Iran, Guatemala and Cuba. But all this means, as far as we can tell, is that operational procedures, though handled by some other agency or agencies of government, will be based upon intelligence reports assembled exclusively by the CIA. In short, the CIA seems to have almost exclusive jurisdiction over the formulation of the strategy and tactics of foreign policy.

Which brings us to the several columns Drew Pearson has written on the man Mr. Kennedy has appointed to succeed Allen Dulles as chief of the CIA.

John McCone has a million-dollar investment in Standard Oil of California. The principal oil reserves of Standard of California, a member of the Arabian-American Oil company, are in Arabia and other areas of the Middle East. Here the prevailing social pattern is practically feudal. A few sheiks hold absolute power and live luxuriously while millions of people eke out a bare and usually short-lived existence. The oil reserves, through royalties paid by such companies as Standard of California, support the sheiks.

It is almost certain that there will come a time when popular forces, under the pressure of misery, will challenge the sheiks and demand that the oil reserves become public property to be used for the benefit of the people. What then might be the attitude of a CIA head who had a substantial stake in such a thing as this? In a Pearson report that the head of Standard of California made a recent trip to Washington to see what he could do to help Mr. McCone get Senate confirmation, he appears all too ready to do anything to help Mr. McCone get confirmation. He has professed himself to be very taken to task for the people of Iran.

The United States would be interested in determining whether a man in that position can be expected to confide solely the genuine public interest to his work as chief of the nation's foreign intelligence agency. We do not think Mr. Kennedy should have appointed him and we do not think the Senate should confirm

CPYRIGHT